



The Youth Partnership Project for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in South Asia 2004-07  
Year 1 – 2004 -2005 Final Report



## **The Youth Partnership Project for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in South Asia**



**Year 1 – Final Report**

**ECPAT International, MAITI Nepal, SANLAAP India,  
Aparajeyo Bangladesh, Christian Aid,**



- A** Cover letter from Christian Aid to Comic Relief
- Letter of support for the project from ECPAT UK
- ECPAT International’s Equal Opportunities Policy
- ECPAT International’s Child Protection Policy
- C** ECPAT International Annual Report 2002 - 2003
- F** ECPAT Newsletter – Child Participation – a matter of  
**N** rights.
- a** ECPAT Newsletter – Child Pornography and Online  
**t** Solicitation
- E** Letter of confirmation from ECPAT international
- a** MOU between ‘ECPAT International’ and ‘Local Partner’
- y** ECPAT International Contract for Training Consultant
- t** ECPAT International Job Description for Regional  
**l** Coordinator
- e** Christian Aid’s Asia Regional Policy and Strategy Paper  
**p** 2002-2007
- T** Christian Aid’s Annual Review 2002/2003
- C** Christian Aid’s Equal Opportunities Policy
- I** Christian Aid’s Child Protection Policy
- U**
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## Project I Sexual Exploitation a

Kingdom

International [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net), SANLAAP (India),  
h, (Bangladesh) [www.aparajeyo.org](http://www.aparajeyo.org), ECPAT UK

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Youth Advisory Committee  
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## 1. YPP South Asia – Year 1 key Achievements

- The first year of the Youth Partnership Project for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in South Asia has been very successful, despite the challenges of setting up a new project in three different countries in South Asia. The first step was to assemble the YPP team, which involved recruiting National Coordinators and Social Workers in each of the project countries. Not only was it necessary for the project staff to have a strong background in CSEC and Child Protection, it was also important that they be familiar with principles of child and youth participation.
- **Youth Facilitators** – survivors of CSEC and trafficking were successfully recruited into the project teams as Youth Facilitators, adding another key staff position to the YPP Project team. The Youth Facilitator in Nepal has lived at Maiti Nepal for several years and worked as a Border Surveillance Monitor in areas where Nepali girls are trafficked into India and also as a Sister in Maiti's hospice in eastern Nepal. The Youth Facilitator who joined the YPP South Asia project in India has lived at the SANLAAP shelter home for six years and is an excellent public speaker who is well versed in issues of trafficking and HIV/AIDS. The Youth Facilitator for Bangladesh joined the YPP team after being rescued by Aparajeyo Bangladesh; she has lived in AB's safe shelter for children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation (CVSAE) for three years. She also participated in the Peer Support training and worked as a Peer Educator where she supported girls who were victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. A second Youth Facilitator for Bangladesh was also recruited to the YPP Project in Bangladesh as the benefit of the Youth Facilities to the YPP was very visible during the first year of the project. Funding for the additional Youth Facilitator's position has been contributed directly by Aparajeyo Bangladesh to provide added support for YPP activities. The additional Youth Facilitator ran away from home to Dhaka city at age seven due to physical abuse. After living on the street for many months, he eventually began to attend an open air street school operated by Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) and is now a resident of AB's Boy's Hostel. He was selected as a Youth Facilitator after an interview and giving a presentation on child rights, commercial sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS, trafficking. These four young persons provide important operational support to the YPP project, improving direct interaction with experiential youth and encouraging their involvement in project activities.
- The project has strengthened ECPAT's child participation portfolio and ability to promote child advocacy in its own regional and global programmes and with other NGOs, INGOs, UN and governmental agencies. The YPP South Asia was shared with the ECPAT global network at the ECPAT International Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 2005 which stimulated great interest in child participation methodologies from NGOs working against CSEC and trafficking in Africa, South and SE Asia, South and Central America, the US, the European Union and East and Central Asia. ECPAT partners in South Asia have been enabled successfully integrate child participation and advocacy methodology into their programmes.
- **Child Protection:** All Children and young people involved in the project be supported at all stages by suitably trained professional adults in each country by the National Coordinators, a Youth Facilitator Coordinator, Social Workers in each country, the local partner groups, worker, media and advocacy/lobbying specialists, ECPAT's Youth Participation Coordinator and ECPAT's Caregivers Training Coordinator. Christian Aid and ECPAT International will take ultimate responsibility for ensuring that child victims of CSEC are supported and supervised to the highest professional levels. Christian Aid and its four local implementing partners – ECPAT International, SANLAAP India, MAITI Nepal and Aparajeyo Bangladesh – all have fully developed Child Protection Policies which are being followed in relation to the YPP South Asia Project

The activities described above laid the groundwork for the implementation of the YPP Trainings on Peer Support, for Caregivers of CSEC survivors and on Media & Advocacy, the key project objectives for Year One.

### 1.1 YPP South Asia – Caregiver Training

#### Year 1: Specific Objective 1

**Training of caregivers in techniques for the appropriate psycho-social recovery of trafficked children. To develop, in Year 1, knowledge and skills amongst 60 caregivers of young people affected by trafficking.**

#### **Objectives of the training**

- To develop models of good practice in care provision, including shelters, outreach services, therapeutic group work and informal education programmes.
- To equip caregivers in specialized care services required for holistic rehabilitation
- Caregivers to understand and be able to discuss CSA and CSEC from a rights perspective



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- To understand why psychosocial rehabilitation can fail and what can be done to increase the chances of successful rehabilitation.
- Understanding the context and environment in which the caregiver has to work.
- Caregivers to better understand themselves and the qualities required to be a good caregiver.
- Understand the children caregivers work with and the problems they face
- To train caregivers in specific techniques for ensuring long term recovery of CSEC victims

**Under the YPP Caregivers Training Program, 70 caregivers have been trained in techniques for the appropriate psycho-social recovery of trafficked children.**

- Participants in India, Bangladesh and Nepal had to have prior knowledge of child rights, commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking issues. Candidates also had to be directly working with child victims of sexual exploitation or trafficking and be willing to contribute to the overall objectives of the YPP project
- **Bangladesh:** The team initially selected 20 Caregivers to participate in the training. 7 Caregivers were selected from Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) and 13 from NGOs in Dhaka & Chittagong. However, news of the training spread fast in Bangladesh, and numerous calls were received from NGOs and CBOs to assist them with developing the capacity of their staff. As a result, AB was compelled to select an additional 10 participants, so a total of 30 participants from 23 different organizations ultimately attended the training.
- **Nepal:** The training was held over six days in the eastern region of Nepal along the border with India where there are high levels of trafficking and CSEC. Local organizations working with victims of trafficking and CSEC and carrying out community awareness on related issues also participated in the training. There were 23 participants altogether of which 19 were females and 4 males from 11 different organizations and CBOs. Participants from each organization developed action plans that they felt were realistic to carry out in their respective areas. The YPP Nepal team has been conducting regular following-up and monitoring on the basis of these action plans. The YPP team conducted a follow-up visit to participating organizations in September 2005. Victims of CSEC and trafficking are clearly receiving counselling from the trained caregivers and other organizations have also begun to refer and network with the trained caregivers to share knowledge acquired during the training.
- In addition to the training objectives mentioned above, the training also focused on improving caregivers' understanding of Child Rights, prevention, protection & reintegration, coping with stress and trauma, identifying problems and needs of CSEC victims and dealing with these appropriately, HIV/AIDS, psycho-social counselling and roles and responsibilities of care giving.
- **India:** Training methodologies included participatory group process, use of case studies, direct reference to the areas of work of the participants (shelter home, drop in centers and community) and expanding the definition of psycho-social rehabilitation from a welfare perspective to a proactive approach to helping the victim become able to 'take charge' of her/his life. The 20 caregivers trained were selected based on criteria developed by the YPP team and sent to all organizations. Participants included caregivers who are working directly with children and youth who are victims of trafficking and vulnerable children in shelter homes, transit homes, child protection units (CPU), and community based organizations. Participants were not trained counsellors or psychologists and were mostly field workers who were directly working with the target youth. The trained caregivers will be involved in upcoming YPP activities, including the peer support scheme and micro projects. 12 partner organizations including SANLAAP were involved in the training, representing three distinct areas of intervention: 1. Institutional (shelter homes), 2. Drop-in-centres for vulnerable street children and 3. Community-based programmes.
- The caregivers trained now have a clear understanding of the project, its objectives and their roles & responsibilities. They are eager to participate and offer improved care to child victims of CSEC and trafficking. The caregivers developed action plans as well as reporting systems during the training. They believe that they have a responsibility to child victims and that they are accountable to the project. Caregivers also briefed their respective organizations/centres on the training they received through the YPP-SA project and have shared their learning with colleagues who work directly with children.

## **1.2 YPP South Asia – Peer Support Training**

### **Year 1: Specific Objective 2**

**To establish a Peer Support Scheme in 36 schools in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, as well as within 36 welfare institutions working with victims of CSEC, focusing in particular on shelters, orphanages and rescue homes.**

**The objectives of the YPP Peer Support Training are to:**

- Train young people (especially youth who have been victims of commercial sexual



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exploitation) as peer supporters;

- To train young people to work in community and temporary shelters;
- To help young people develop skills in building rapport and winning the confidence of CSEC victims;
- To help young people learn how to befriend, mentor and listen to their peers thereby reducing depression, alleviating their sense of isolation.

After consultations with the project partners, it was determined that it was necessary to build a preliminary Train-the-Trainer workshop into the project in order to provide the country teams and consultants with the necessary information and support to conduct an effective Peer Support training. The quality of the peer support training is important to the sustainability of the larger project; Peer Support trainings to be held in each of the project countries in year one will be followed by the creation and management of peer support schemes in schools and welfare institutions by the trained youth. Secondary training will be developed incrementally, with a further 30 young people being trained in the second year. This will ensure sustainability and allows the potential for implementing Peer Training of Trainers programs in the future.

The ECPAT Project Coordinator and Program Officer for Care & Protection therefore conducted a Train the Trainer Workshop in Kolkata from August 8-10, 2005 to build capacity of the project staff and training resource persons to implement Peer Support trainings for 75 youth in India, Nepal and Bangladesh from September to November, 2005. Objectives of the ToT included:

- To familiarize the trainer/consultant and YPP staff members with the Peer Support Training objectives, topics, methodologies and process;
- Sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences to ensure that the training curriculum is effective, relevant and based on the needs of the young people and the project objectives;
- To ensure regional cohesiveness in implementing training activities;
- To clearly outline the role of the peer supporters in providing care and support to victims of CSEC and trafficked young children;
- Discussion of confidentiality and ethical issues involved in peer support;
- To prepare appropriate Peer Support Training reference materials;
- To enable staff to effectively and efficiently carry out the training so that the young participants are able to grasp the subject matter and clearly understand their roles as peer supporters through case studies, examples, group work and energizers.

**India:** The Peer Support Training in India was held in two phases. Phase I participants were children and young people between the ages of 16-23 who were victims of trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Participants had undergone rehabilitation and recovery, demonstrated mental and emotional stability and will therefore be able to provide support to others. Phase II participants were young people between the ages of 16-23 who were identified as vulnerable to risks of trafficking and being sexually exploited commercially or otherwise. All participants were expected to have had basic knowledge of CSEC issues, sexual abuse and trafficking. Each participant was also asked to complete a profile form so that their peers could learn about their experiences, involvement in youth work, trainings they have participated in and their ability to lead a group and help their peers. This also provided organisations with guidelines for selecting appropriate participants. Participants from SANLAAP were elected by their peers. The YPP team first explained the Peer Support program and qualities required to be a good peer supporter. Each candidate was then voted upon, and the youth that received the highest number of votes were chosen.

**Bangladesh:** The National Coordinator and Social Worker initially identified 40 children from AB's programmes and other NGOs to participate in the YPP Peer Support training. A workshop was held on 30 and 31 May 2005 to conduct the final selection of 25 Peer Educators. The candidates' understanding of child rights, child abuse & exploitation and trafficking issues in addition to their presentation, communication, interaction skills were assessed. After each presentation, the children themselves evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of each presenter. Through this exercise, 25 children were finally selected as the Peer Educators. 15 young people were selected from Aparajeyo and the remaining 10 children from other NGOs, welfare institutions and schools. Children who were not selected were assured that the project would include them in other YPP activities at a later date.

Aparajeyo contracted Mr. Deep Purkayastha, an international resource person from India, to facilitate the Peer Support Training. The trained YPP peer educators are now very aware of the project, its objectives and their roles & responsibilities. They are eager to participate in the project and offer peer support to child victims of CSEC and trafficking. The peer educators have developed their own action plans as well as reporting systems and this clearly demonstrates their ability to plan and take responsibility, as well as to be accountable for their work. Peer supporters who attend non-formal/formal schools, vocational training institutes, birthdays, and



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weddings etc regularly speak to their peers/class mates/friends/relatives on issues related to CSEC and trafficking. Peer supporters relate the main reasons of CSEC and trafficking to poverty and illiteracy in the rural sector. They have strongly recommended that peer supporters work in the rural sectors to educate communities on the risks and dangers of CSEC and trafficking. Peer supporters are currently sharing information on CSEC and trafficking with children and youth living on the streets and centre-based programmes through individual and group sessions. They have also initiated awareness raising campaigns on these issues through drama and song.

**Nepal:** The Peer Support Training in Nepal was also held in two phases. The first phase of this training was held in Nepalgunj from 30 August to 4 September, 2005. The location and the area were selected because this area borders India and is a trafficking and CSEC-prone area. The module was also field tested with young people in Maiti's shelters. The curriculum was then translated into Nepali and the logistic arrangements were made. There were altogether 29 participants in Phase I, representing 10 local organizations. Of these, 27 were females and two males whose ages ranged from 14 to 25. The training was fully participatory; each participant was encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences. It was very encouraging to see the participants sharing ideas and experiences freely and openly. Many examples based on real life situations experienced by victims of CSEC and survivors were shared and these were then linked to what the role of a peer supporter should be in each situation. All youth participants were accompanied by a senior staff member from the organization that recommended that they participate in the training and these staff members will be working as focal persons who will help to guide and lead the peer supporters while implementing peer support related activities. Their involvement in this training has proved to be very useful for the young participants. It has also been helpful to the YPP Nepal team to be in regular contact with the peer supporters through these focal persons.

The second phase of YPP Peer Support training in Nepal was completed in Biratnagar. The training was attended by 17 young participants from two districts bordering India which have a level of trafficking of children and CSEC. The second phase of this training was planned in order to involve young participants from a specific location and to establish proper coordination and cooperation amongst the YPP Caregivers and the YPP Peer Supporters. They are now able to support one another, exchange ideas and share problems, strengthening their working relationship and the overall project impact.

### **Some of the topics that were discussed in the three day Peer Support Training:**

- ❖ Who am I - tying this to 'why should we be peer supporters'?
- ❖ Ethical issues
- ❖ Confidentiality
- ❖ Trust Building
- ❖ Communication – barriers to communication, non-verbal communication
- ❖ Listening skills
- ❖ Who is a peer?
- ❖ Motivation to be a peer supporter
- ❖ Role of a Peer Supporter
- ❖ Do's and don'ts
- ❖ Qualities needed to be a peer supporter
- ❖ Emotions – identifying emotions of oneself and that of others

The focus of the training was to make it experiential so that they themselves can understand why they should be peer supporter? It was more to help them identify and recognize themselves in order to identify with others.

## **1.3 YPP South Asia – Media & Advocacy Training**

### **Year 1: Specific Objective 3**

**Training of 75 young people in lobbying and advocacy techniques, to increase their ability to influence local bodies in terms of prevention, protection and rehabilitation of commercially sexually exploited children.**

#### **Objectives**

1. To increase the ability of youth to influence local bodies in terms of prevention, protection and rehabilitation of commercially sexually exploited children.
2. To enable the young persons to apply their new skills by planning and conducting campaigns to raise awareness and lobby for policy change.
3. To equip young people with the skills necessary to lead local and national campaigns to advocate for appropriate policy and strategies to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of all children and to assure their right to protection



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- and rehabilitation services;
4. To enable youth to develop & conduct national campaigns in Years 2 and 3, which will potentially reach and impact the lives of large numbers of children at risk;
  5. To assure strong partnership with the media so that these campaigns will reach the maximum number of target youth.

The primary objective of the Media & Advocacy Training is to develop lobbying and advocacy skills amongst young people to enable them to influence local and national policy-makers in terms of prevention, protection and rehabilitation of commercially sexually exploited children. Media & Advocacy trainings held in each of the project countries in Year One will be followed by the development of community awareness campaigns on CSEC & Trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and Child Rights targeting vulnerable children, peers, community members and leaders, educators and welfare providers in Year Two and youth lobbying campaigns for policy change targeting government and mass media in Year Three.

Key objectives of the Media & Advocacy ToT workshop were to: identify key issues and needs for planning and implementing the YPP Media & Advocacy training and follow-up activities; share experiences and knowledge from the expert consultants and the YPP country teams; achieve a clear understanding of advocacy, lobbying and the media; and to draft a training curriculum and methodology for the Media & Advocacy training to be held in each country. All of the YPP-SA staff involved in the Media & Advocacy activities participated in the ToT workshop, including project social workers, youth facilitators, National Coordinators and Media & Advocacy training resource persons.

- **Bangladesh:** In order to begin recruiting youth to participate in the YPP Media & Advocacy training, the National Coordinator and Social Worker visited centers and organizations working with street children, children from slum communities, child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, and children involved in the worst forms of hazardous labor, among others. Discussions were also held with 120 AB project beneficiaries already working as Peer Educators, Child Motivators and Child Brigades in various sectors.
- Two workshops were conducted on 24th October, 2005 and 27th October, 2005 in Dhaka and Chittagong to select 25 youth participants. The objective of the workshops was to observe the young people's presentation, communication, and interaction skills in addition to assessing their understanding of the CRC, CSA/CSEC and Trafficking issues. 13 youth were selected from AB while 12 youth were from other NGOs and Social Institutes.
- The media & advocacy group regularly meet with the peer supporters. This interaction has developed a good rapport and friendly relationships between the YPP groups. They share their experiences, ideas and have begun to believe that they are one unit and regularly assist and support each other.
- **Nepal:** After returning from the ToT on Media and Advocacy training in Dhaka, the YPP Nepal team began developing the training module and the methodologies, which were then tested with children in Maiti Nepal's shelter homes.
- A total of 22 participants were selected; all the participants were young girls whose ages ranged from 12-25 years. 16 girls were from Maiti Nepal's shelter, 2 were from Maiti Nepal transit homes and 4 were from the Restaurant Project and are also involved in the informal education program. The training methodologies followed included mini lecture, group work and in pairs, games, sharing experiences and case studies, discussions etc. On the final day of the training, the participants were asked to develop realistic action plans. There was also a reflection session at the end of each day's session followed by short review each morning before the new session began. This gave adequate opportunity for all participants to actively participate in the training.
- **India:** The Media & Advocacy Training in India was held in Kolkata.. The training was led by media and advocacy consultants Ananya Chatterjee and Ratnaboli Ray. 25 youth participated in the training, including 9 girls from SANLAAP's shelter home who are survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, 8 boys and girls from SANLAAP's drop-in-centres reside in red light areas, neighbouring slums, or are children of women in prostitution (WIP), and 7 youth (4 boys and 3 girls) from partner community based organizations.
- At the opening of the training the YPP Social Worker and National Coordinator shared with the participants the steps that would be taken during the 4 day training to create a safe space for the participants. Participants also developed their own ground rules for the training. A wide variety of participatory training methodologies were used, including group discussion, role play, group work and team building exercises. Topics discussed included the different types of advocacy and media, sessions on how experiential youth can protect themselves during interaction with the media, advocacy target groups, how to give interviews, etc. The Media and Advocacy consultants will continue to provide guidance and technical support to the youth trained during this workshop in year two and three of the project as they use the skills they have acquired to develop community awareness raising and lobbying campaigns.



## 1.4 YPP South Asia – Youth Micro Project Scheme

### Year 1: Specific Objective 4

Support to child and youth groups' and networks' initiatives through a Youth Micro-Project Scheme.

#### The objectives:

- To encourage creative thinking among youth groups, helping them to link to the YPP trainings and other activities;
- To develop and implement initiatives which CSEC victims have identified as priorities;
- To further the psychosocial well being of the youth participants through creative activities;
- To enable young people to develop and implement initiatives, thereby developing their skills in micro project management;
- To have a positive, empowering psychosocial impact on child victims of CSEC.

The Micro-Project Scheme has started to enable disadvantaged children and young people in the region to develop and implement initiatives, which they themselves have identified as priorities

Micro Project funds are to be granted to child victims of CSEC and trafficking or to groups of children who are either survivors or at high risk of CSEC and trafficking. Activities funded can include drama, sports, arts, development of awareness-raising materials or creative projects that improve the lives of these children. The rationale for the micro project funding is to provide opportunities and motivation for youth to participate in the project through fun activities that allow young people to be directly involved in and learn about the YPP project. When children are involved in these activities for consecutive years, this will help build a sense of cohesiveness and YPP team spirit.

To date, funds have been disbursed to over 20 youth groups in India and Bangladesh. Examples of activities funded include:

- **Setting up a library and recreational room in the Sneha shelter home for young girls who are survivors of CSEC.** Books on topics including trafficking, health and hygiene, sexual abuse, general knowledge (dictionary, atlas, etc) are being purchased, along with games and activity equipment. The girls in the shelter expressed a desire to gain knowledge on various topics in order to protect themselves and share information with their friends and communities.
- **Supporting the initiative of a youth drama group to use theatre as a medium to create awareness about trafficking and CSEC.** Drama group members are street children and children of sex workers who are either CSEC survivors or at high risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Children use experiences from their everyday life and script the drama themselves. Performing in local areas helps to improve their self-confidence and youth drama is a medium that people (adults) accept to deal with sensitive or taboo issues. from the risks of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. **Open air dramas** will be held to develop mass awareness among parents, local power structures, village committees, religious leaders, village police, community health workers, children and youth to create awareness on trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation
- **Poster making on Trafficking, Child Sexual Abuse & Child Rights.** This youth group is developing posters on the issues of child marriage, child rights, and trafficking. Through workshops and competitions, posters will be selected to be printed and distributed to the local schools, clubs and other organizations.
- **Folk song campaigns** will be implemented, throughout the target regions, against trafficking and exploitation.
- **Sensitization campaigns in schools** will be held to increase the awareness of children and young people to the risks of trafficking and their protection using common messages through role play and drama.
- **Mosque meetings, Tea Stall Meetings, Youth club meetings, 35 courtyard meetings,** will be held to increase awareness and mobilize community adults against the vulnerability of children and youth in the poorest rural zones and involve them in creating safety nets (one group per intervention area).to protect children and young people
- **Youth led Rallies** will be launched against child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

## 2. YPP South Asia – Problems encountered and how they are addressed

- A challenge was the difficulty experienced by the YPP team in gaining entry to government shelter homes, which can be a long and arduous process. There were also difficulties working with children in shelters as concepts of youth participation are very new in this region and can be perceived as



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disruptive. Teaching children that they have a voice and rights can lead them to express dissatisfaction with their current environment and care, which may not be well received by their host organizations. However, because the project target youth are housed in these locations, the YPP team will continue to make every effort to enable these young people to participate in YPP activities. Through careful planning, negotiation and clear explanation of the project goals and objectives, these obstacles are being surmounted.

- One problem encountered in implementation the project was the general lack of professional knowledge about commercial sexual exploitation among participants and care givers, local NGOs and CBO. For example, the YPP Caregivers Training was the first time in India that caregivers of child victims of CSE had ever received any type of training. This made it necessary to build a basic review of these concepts into all of the training activities and outreach efforts, which required additional time and resources. This also motivated training participants to request additional follow-up training on basic CSEC issues and principles of psychosocial rehabilitation. There is currently no funding available for these activities, but the YPP management team has assured participants that these needs will be met and remedial courses will be organized at some point in the future, as both ECPAT and Christian Aid believe that this knowledge is important to the success of the YPP.
- The project team also experienced difficulty identifying qualified consultants to lead the Peer Support and Media & Advocacy training, especially in Bangladesh and Nepal. This challenge was overcome by sharing consultants from Kolkata and providing additional technical support from the ECPAT International Secretariat in Bangkok. Lack of understanding of concepts of Peer Support and Media & Advocacy made it necessary for ECPAT to organize Train-the-Trainer sessions to prepare consultants and YPP team to implement those trainings. There was no provision for these workshops in the project budget, but ECPAT and Christian Aid contributed additional funding to support these initiatives in order to ensure that the training programs were of high quality
- The YPP team generally felt that more time and resources should be invested in developing effective and sustainable partnerships with smaller local organizations in border areas that are involved in the project either through the Micro Project Scheme or sending their staff and beneficiaries to participate in YPP trainings. It would be valuable to develop an integrated network of community based organizations working with CSEC and trafficking issues to broaden the impact of the project and reach more young people who are either victims of or vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. This can be done through visits, technical workshops, trainings and other capacity building activities to bring representatives of organizations together to strengthen network relationships and enhance the visibility of the YPP.

### 3. YPP South Asia – Wider political, economic and social changes which have affected the project and its aims over the reporting period

- The primary political challenge to the implementation of YPP activities has been the **ongoing conflict in Nepal** between the rebel Maoists and the Nepal government. The Communist Party of Nepal launched the "Nepalese People's War" in 1996, and now controls much of the countryside. This has made it difficult to conduct project activities outside the capital, particularly along border areas with India, which is accused by the Nepali government of harboring communist party leaders. This has result in blockades, severe limitations on travel and has often forced YPP activities in Nepal to be delayed and/or re-organized.
- **Political conflict in Bangladesh** has also affected YPP activities. On August 18 2004, over 400 bombs exploded simultaneously in important public places and government buildings in 63 districts across Bangladesh. This incidence and further bomb blasts in the courts have lead to increased levels of security in Dhaka and severely restricting travel at times. During the Train-the-Trainer session in November, YPP staff and Media & Advocacy consultants had to travel to the airport by ambulance because travel had been banned by opposition parties. These types of problems have had an impact on the ability of the YPP team to efficiently organize and implement project activities. In its report for 2005, the International Crisis Group, signalled out both Nepal and Bangladesh as two countries which the conflict and security situation have significantly denigrated during the course of the year.

### 4. YPP South Asia – How many people have benefited from the project over the last year?

#### Direct Project Beneficiaries – Year 1



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Country	Caregivers Training	Peer Support Training	Media & Advocacy Training	Micro Project Scheme
India	20	45	25	362
Bangladesh	30	25	25	282
Nepal	23	46	22	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>Total number of direct project beneficiaries</b>				<b>965</b>

<b>Total Number of indirect beneficiaries</b>	<b>6 500</b>
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**India:** Direct beneficiaries include the CSEC survivors and at-risk girls and boys who are directly involved in YPP activities are shown in the chart above. Indirect beneficiaries include the youth from SANLAAP's shelter homes and two centres who are involved in YPP groups on a regular basis, youth from SANLAAP and 11 partner organisations who are receiving care from the caregivers trained in the Caregivers Training and other young people and adults who have received information about the YPP, CSEC and related issues through exposure to project activities. Based on these estimates, the total number of people who benefited from the first year of the project is approximately 500.

**Bangladesh:** In addition to the direct beneficiaries above, YPP Peer Supporters have been in contact with 1,716 people during year one, YPP trained caregivers have worked with 2,000 young people and the Media & Advocacy group has been involved with 500 young people. The project additionally worked with 1,000 people through interaction with community based organizations. Therefore, over 5,000 persons have had some degree of involvement in the YPP in Bangladesh. In addition to the direct beneficiaries above, YPP Peer Supporters have already been in contact with several hundred adults and young people through their awareness raising and peer support activities during year one. YPP trained caregivers have provided care to approximately 2,000 young people currently living shelters across Bangladesh. In contacting organizations working with street children, children from slum communities, child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, and children involved in the worst forms of hazardous labor to identify participants in the YPP Media & Advocacy program, over 500 young people have learned about YPP activities. The YPP team was additionally in contact with approximately 1,000 people through interaction with community based organizations. Therefore, several thousand people have had some degree of involvement in the YPP in Bangladesh

**Nepal:** The beneficiaries who have been directly receiving services through the different activities of the project are 300 children and young people. Also, there were altogether 91 participants, mostly young people who have been involved and have benefited from the three training activities - Caregivers, Peer Support and Media and Advocacy trainings carried out in the Year One of the project. Besides, in the first year of the project, about 1000 children and young people have been involved and have benefited from the projects who are mostly school children, children of Child Rights Forum and adults as well as young people from the different communities set up through awareness campaigns, orientation/interaction programmes, publications on the issues of CSEC and trafficking. The direct beneficiaries have been receiving services like counselling, peer support, skills and knowledge oriented trainings, income generation activities, educational support and micro project schemes.

## 5. YPP South Asia – How are women, disabled, ethnic groups and other distinct groups participating from the project?

The specific YPP target group are child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and children at risk of CSEC and trafficking living on the streets, in red-light areas and border districts. Awareness campaigns planned for year two will also be targeted towards street children, Dalit and Tribal children, children with mental and physical disabilities and HIV-positive children. Child victims of CSE are an extremely disadvantaged subset of the population and require very specific and specialized interventions and support.

### Nepal:

- Most of the people who are involved in and have benefited from the project are the Dalits, indigenous groups and other ethnic groups mainly from the rural areas who are also poor and illiterate. These poor and innocent groups of people are the easy target of CSEC and trafficking. Some of these people are treated as untouchables (Dalits) and are not allowed to participate in the regular social activities, especially in the rural set-up.
- In the first year of the project, we have been able to reach to a few numbers of disabled people who participated and benefited from the project. There were 7 disabled young people who continue to be



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involved in and are receiving support from the caregivers and the peer supporters. These groups of people participated and have benefited from the project in varied ways by linking them to the service providers and through receiving care and support from the trained youths and caregivers, medical and other rehabilitation services including legal support, have involved in the training and educational activities, income generation and in raising awareness on the issues of CSEC and trafficking.

### India:

- Participants in the caregivers training included caregivers working directly with children and youth who are victims of trafficking and vulnerable children in shelter homes, transit homes, child protection units (CPU), and community based organizations. They were not to be trained psychologists or counsellors. These criteria were circulated among the partner organisations to inform the selection of participants. .
- Direct and indirect project beneficiaries are primarily girls, who constitute the majority of the YPP participants. Many of the girls belong to minority communities. For example, a large number of the girls are Muslims. There are also Bangladeshi and Nepali girls participating in project activities. Many of the girls and boys that the project works with belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, who marginalised and discriminated against in India.

### Bangladesh:

- The YPP Bangladesh team is involved with many women through the implementation of the project and working with women is a global mandate of Aparajeyo Bangladesh. Through our YPP and Aparajeyo-Bangladesh network we have strong links with organizations working with disabled children and will definitely include disabled children in the awareness programme this year and we will encourage them to be more actively involved in the YPP project.
- There are no ethnic groups in our project areas as these groups are only located in the Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. However, on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 AB signed a MOU with a CBO located in Cox's Bazaar that is working with and has good contact with ethnic population there, although this is a relatively small group. The YPP youth-led community awareness programme working with this CBO will target ethnic people.

## 6. YPP South Asia –What is the role of partner organisations and how are they involved in the project

- Overall supervision of the project has been led by ECPAT International's Project Coordinator, supported by ECPAT's Executive and Deputy Directors and Christian Aid. They are supported in South Asia by a Regional Coordinator in India who supervises National Coordinators in each of the three project countries. The Regional and the National Coordinators are based at MAITI Nepal, SANLAAP India and Aparajeyo Bangladesh. The Regional Coordinator reports directly to ECPAT International's Youth Participation Coordinator. Each National Coordinator works together with a project Social Worker to ensure that full support is provided to the children and youth participating in the programme. Local consultants have been recruited to support the development and implementation of the trainings and youth campaigns.
- Christian Aid's Programme Funding and Support Team and its India and Bangladesh Country Field Offices will assist and support ECPAT, MAITI Nepal, SANLAAP and Aparajeyo with the monitoring and evaluation process. Christian Aid have undertaken two formal monitoring visits to the YPP South Asia project in India, Nepal and Bangladesh and to the ECPAT International Secretariat in Thailand. The visits were undertaken by Christian Aid Asia Regional Manager and Christian Aid's Senior Programme Officer Asia in April and September 2005.
- The YPP project also relies upon the strong partnership between the primary project partner organizations. Partner organizations Sanlaap India, Maiti Nepal and Aparajeyo Bangladesh host the YPP National Coordinators, Social Workers and Youth Facilitators and the YPP Regional Coordinator also works from Sanlaap in Kolkata. YPP partners were selected for participation in the project based on their direct involvement with child victims of commercial sexual exploitation through their shelter and outreach programs. Therefore, the target YPP participants have been identified and invited to participate in project activities through the partner organizations. ECPAT International acts as the overall coordinating partner, providing technical and project management support and ensuring regional integration of project activities. ECPAT is in daily contact with all of the partner organizations to monitor progress and supervise the implementation of activities so that they adhere to the overall YPP objectives and work plan.
- In addition to the primary partner organizations, the YPP team also works closely with a wide network of local NGOs and community based organizations that shelter and rescue child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Staff from these organizations participate in YPP capacity building trainings and share the knowledge they acquire with their colleagues in the field. Many of these organizations are located in border areas where there are high levels of CSEC and trafficking and focus on anti-trafficking initiatives, child rights and address second generation prostitution in red light areas, among other issues. YPP partner organisations are also working with youth and youth groups and have chosen to be



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involved in the project in an effort to increase the young people's participation in the fight against CSEC. The YPP peer supporters and youth advocates belong to these organizations and form strong networks to establish systems for care and protection of children in their areas or community awareness programmes on child rights, CSEC, HIV/AIDS etc. Partner organisations also help to increase the YPP's impact at the grassroots level and support youth as they are implementing the micro projects. Trained YPP caregivers from partner organizations, along with the national YPP teams, are constantly vigilant to ensure the well-being and protection of each young person involved in the YPP.

- YPP teams in India, Bangladesh and Nepal conduct regular visits to the field to build and maintain relationships with local partner organizations. YPP staff also organize discussions and meetings with network NGOs to share progress and achievements as well as review future plans. These efforts have been much appreciated by the NGOs, who have requested that these meetings continue in order to strengthen the collaboration between the partners. The YPP team is also working with government sponsored schools and welfare institutions in Bangladesh. These schools and institutions have shown a keen interest in the project, as well as in the direct participation of youth. This will be useful for the development of the Peer Support Scheme in Schools planned for year two.

### **7. YPP South Asia – Progress made on any conditions or matters raised when the grant was made**

- An issue that arose at the beginning of the project was the switch in Bangladesh partners from Sanjog (Groupe Developpement), who was identified as the YPP partner for Bangladesh in the original project proposal to the new partner for Bangladesh, Aparajeyo. As planning for the project got underway in late 2004, it became apparent that Sanjog would not be an appropriate to directly implement the project in Bangladesh partner because 1) the Sanjog office is physically located in Kolkata, India. Sanjog had planned to implement the YPP project activities through its partner organization in Bangladesh, Aparajeyo. ECPAT, Sanjog and Aparajeyo decided that because Sanjog's direct involvement in the project would be minimal, Aparajeyo would become the principal partner for Bangladesh and ECPAT would sign a partnership agreement with Aparajeyo directly. This was finalized at the February 2005 partnership meeting in Kolkata. At the completion of the first year of the project, it has proven to be extremely useful and beneficial to work directly with Aparajeyo as the YPP partner for Bangladesh.
- Project no cost extension: The project was originally scheduled to complete its year 1 implementation period in October 2005, Christian Aid however were obliged to request a no-cost extension of the year 1 implementation period upto end of December 2005. The primary reason for the request for the extension is that one of the key training components for year 1 of the project has to be postponed or re-scheduled to November and December. The trainings needed to be postponed for a number of reasons including the delays brought about by the political and social disturbances and security issues in both Nepal and Bangladesh over the last 6 months – Maoists insurgency in Nepal and over 450 small bombs in Bangladesh during August alone. Given the importance and challenges of implementing the project simultaneously in 3 countries, Christian Aid requesting the no cost extension so that all three countries could be in line with each other and work to the same timeframes. In addition, we are also very eager to ensure that by having a the no-cost extension it will be possible to start year 2 without having a number of trainings from year 1 hurriedly undertaken in the start of the year 2. Fortunately, Comic Relief agreed to our no-cost extension request.

### **8. YPP South Asia – How have people benefiting from the project been involved in reviewing the year's progress?**

- Monitoring and evaluation of the project is being carried out through the YPP Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES). This system is designed to measure the positive impact of the project on children based on qualitative and quantitative impact indicators. Young people involved in the programme, supported by the YPP National Coordinators, Social Workers and Youth Facilitator in each country, the Regional Coordinator and ECPAT's Project Coordinator, participate in the review of the project on a ongoing basis.
- Evaluation of the YPP by project beneficiaries takes several different forms. At the conclusion of all training activities, evaluations are circulated to participants, who are invited to make comments and suggestions on the training contents, curriculum, facilitator, materials, etc. Year-end evaluation questionnaires have been developed by youth involved in the YPP project in India to collect feedback from all project participants. The youth themselves designed the questions and determined what information should be collected.
- In addition to evaluations and questionnaires, PMES workshops are being organized in all three project countries to collect feedback from YPP participants. During the PMES workshop in India, for example, YPP staff explained why monitoring and evaluation is important and the different processes through which this can be done. The group also discussed how monitoring and evaluation can be participatory and why this is important. Participants then discussed the project and were asked to share what they



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thought were the most important components. The second half of the workshop focused on developing indicators and questionnaires that the M&E process would be based upon.

- Indicators identified by the group and the questionnaires that have been developed will be incorporated into the formal project reporting structure by the YPP staff team. The youth group members will then administer these questionnaires and conduct group discussions using the guideline indicators with all direct YPP beneficiaries. Indicators and questionnaires that have been developed will also be continuously updated and improved upon so that they can be used for monitoring and evaluation in years two and three of the project.
- The partner organizations and participating youth sent very positive feedback in response to the Peer Support training. The resource person was very effective and participants actively took part in the training with tremendous enthusiasm, which helped them learn through active participation. Participants did express the need for a follow-up Peer Support training; many participants also requested more specialized training on CSEC to enable them to better understand the issues, improve their communication skills and clarify the limitations of peer supporters.
- In addition to feedback collected from the trained caregivers and youth participants, YPP National Coordinators, Social Workers, Youth Facilitators have integrated the ECPAT International monitoring and evaluation system of Output Summary Reports and Evidence of Impact Reports. The ECPAT Project Coordinator worked with ECPAT's Program Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation to adapt these tools for use by the YPP project partners. The new system was introduced to the project team prior to the first quarterly reporting period (February to April 2005). The output / evidence-based format of the ECPAT monitoring and evaluation system encourages a more dynamic and useful reporting style than traditional exhaustive chronological activity lists.

### **9. YPP South Asia – How will the review of the year inform next year's project management and planning?**

Through the participatory monitoring and evaluation system, feedback collected from YPP country teams and ongoing discussions among the project management, ECPAT International and Christian Aid, numerous recommendations have been made to strengthen the project. These recommendations will be closely reviewed by the project management and incorporated into the implementation strategy for years two and three. Those areas that require additional funding will be assessed and, if necessary, additional support will be requested from the project donors. In some cases, unspent funds from other areas can be redirected to support these initiatives, such as funding for the Peer Support Trainings that was used to support Phase II Peer Support trainings in India and Nepal.

Key areas of need that have emerged from the review of the first year include:

- The need to support the development of an YPP network of NGOs and CBOs working with CSEC issues in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Strengthening coordination and cooperation between these groups and the primary YPP partners, will allow the YPP to reach more young victims of CSEC and will attract support for the project across the region.
- The need to increase the scope for YPP national team members to travel more within their countries to meet directly with youth involved in the Micro Project Scheme and other project activities in border areas. Due to the poor communication infrastructure in South Asia and the fact that many local community organizations and NGOs do not have access to email, it is often necessary to conduct visits to strengthen partnerships and conduct additional monitoring and evaluation assessments.
- The need to bring all of the YPP project participants in each country together for a joint YPP team meeting at least once a year. This will promote cohesion between the different project activities and give participants an opportunity to learn about the different aspects of the project. There may also be important areas of overlap and ways in which different project activities can compliment each other that will emerge during this forum.

### **10. YPP South Asia – How have you shared the experiences and lessons you're your work with interested parties**

- Experiences and lessons learned from the YPP activities are shared with interested parties in many different ways. After each year one training workshop, national project teams finalize the training curriculum with the training consultants, which is then shared with partner organizations and saved to be used for future trainings. In many cases, CSEC-related trainings on these topics for these particular target groups have never been done before, so these training materials are unique. At the end of the project, all the training materials and curricula developed will be widely disseminated by partner organizations in Asia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and internationally.
- A YPP South Asia brochure has been developed to share information about the YPP with interested groups and individuals. The brochure provides an overview of the project activities and the partner organizations involved, along with their contact information. This brochure is currently being translated into Nepali and Bengali for wider use in South Asia. The YPP South Asia has also developed its own



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logo which can be seen at the cover and at the top of each page of this report.

- A YPP South Asia newsletter has been developed in Bangladesh to highlight the project and activities implemented there. The newsletter has been circulated to partners in the region as well as widely circulated in Bangladesh among NGOs working with children, welfare institutions, networking bodies etc. Responsibility for the newsletter will be given to the Peer Educators in the second year of the project. They will collect and select stories for publication and design the newsletter layout with the assistance of the project team.
- At the local level, regular community awareness meetings are organized in all of the project countries to familiarize inhabitants of local areas with the project, issues of CSEC and the value of youth participation. Youth participating the project are very involved and committed to awareness raising and sharing their YPP experiences with other youth and community members. A fundamental aim of the project is to share lessons learned and practices developed with other organizations and individuals interested in strengthening the involvement of youth in the fight against commercial exploitation of children around the world.
- All of the YPP staff, including the ECPAT Project Coordinator and the Regional Coordinator regularly gives presentations on the YPP to different forums. For example, information about the YPP was shared with the ECPAT global network at the ECPAT International Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 2005. The Regional Coordinator has made several YPP presentations during trainings for police and law enforcement officers in different parts of India.
- The YPP Social Worker for India gave a presentation on the YPP at the ISPCAN regional conference in Singapore in November, 2005 and the ECPAT Project Coordinator has submitted an abstract on the project for submission to the 16<sup>th</sup> ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect to be held in the UK from 3-6 September 2006.
- Christian Aid have raised awareness of the YPP South Asia project and discussed the problem of CSEC and trafficking with the European Commission, DFID, United Nations Development Programme, Aus Aid and UNICEF in South Asia. Christian Aid has also disseminated awareness of the YPP Project with its project partners in South Asia and representatives of the APRODEV international network. Christian Aid has also had preliminary discussions with Comic Relief in relation to the possibility of featuring the YPP South Asia project during Comic Relief Red Nose or Sport Relief



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